

House Resolution 247

By: Representatives Cole of the 125th, Burns of the 157th, Smith of the 129th, Black of the 174th, O'Neal of the 146th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing February 5, 2009, as "Forestry Day at the Capitol"; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Association (GFA), founded in 1907, has provided 102
3 years of service to the state and to a vast community of forest landowners, businesses, and
4 forestry professionals; and

5 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Association is one of the oldest conservation organizations
6 in the United States, and through the years GFA has worked with landowners in protecting
7 their property rights and adopting sound land management practices to ensure that our forests
8 are managed in a sustainable manner and continue to provide clean air, clean water, soil
9 conservation, wildlife habitat, beauty, and recreational opportunities; and

10 WHEREAS, forestry is a leading industry in this state, creating more than 150,000 jobs and
11 having a \$25 billion annual economic impact in this state; and

12 WHEREAS, Georgia's 24 million total acres of forests represent the major land use in the
13 state, occupying two-thirds of Georgia's total land area of 37 million acres; and

14 WHEREAS, 92 percent of Georgia's forestland is owned by private landowners, more than
15 in any other state; and

16 WHEREAS, timber is the highest value crop in this state, and Georgia remains one of the top
17 pulp and paper producing states in the nation; and

18 WHEREAS, Georgia's forests are not only economically important but also provide vital
19 environmental, educational, and social benefits and hold the potential to make Georgia a
20 leader in the production of renewable fuels and nature tourism, including hiking, birding,
21 camping, and hunting; and

22 WHEREAS, the Georgia Forestry Association is the sponsoring organization for the
23 Sustainable Forestry Initiative and thus promotes best management practices for forestry,
24 responsible wood procurement practices, wildlife habitat enhancement, and educational
25 outreach to Georgia's forest landowners; and

26 WHEREAS, it is only fitting and proper that the significant contributions made by the
27 industry and organization to the welfare of this state be recognized.

28 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
29 the members of this body recognize February 5, 2009, as "Forestry Day at the Capitol" in
30 honor of the significant contributions made to the welfare of this state by forestry and the
31 Georgia Forestry Association.

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
33 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia Forestry
34 Association.